



Ironhorse Desert News



MPs, Iraqis key on trucks carrying illegal loads

Story by Spc. Samuel Soza

TIKRIT, Iraq – Military police units of Task Force Ironhorse, teaming with city law enforcement officers, are targeting large, commercial vehicles that could be



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

Pfc. Joseph T. Cabaday, a native of Erie, Pa and a driver with the 411th Military Police Company keeps watch at a checkpoint for large commercial trucks that could be carrying contraband. The checkpoint was a joint operation between the U.S. military and Tikrit police.

used to transport hidden explosive devices or contraband.

Iraqi police joined members of the 401st and the 411th Military Police companies, both a part of the 720th Military Police Battalion based in Fort Hood, Texas, at a temporary checkpoint in a large parking lot located along a highway near Tikrit.

Besides identifying vehicles involved in suspicious activities, the goal of the joint venture is to teach the local police search techniques so they can conduct checks themselves.

This day, the MPs set up the checkpoint routine and assisted the Iraqi police in searching large trucks and smaller automobiles and pickup trucks.

The MPs and Iraqi police conduct these inspections at random times and locations, watching for caches of weapons and contraband being moved in large vehicles such as dump trucks and fuel tankers.

--MP continued on page 5

Maj. Gen. Odierno's Veterans' Day Message

As we honor the veterans of past conflicts and the current global war on terrorism, I would like to thank you, the soldiers of Task Force Ironhorse. And as important, I would like to thank your families for the sacrifices and contributions you both have made to this war.

You face danger and hardship every day as you conduct combat operations to defeat the enemies of democracy in Iraq. Just as the veterans of 4th Infantry Division did in the Meuse-Argonne, we are making a stand against forces that would like to see the liberties we enjoy destroyed.

Our fathers and grandfathers

made history on Utah Beach and in the Central Highlands of Vietnam; the spirit of these heroes is alive in Task Force Ironhorse and you continue the tradition of the Ivy Division in every mission you perform.

No challenge has ever stood in the way of the Ironhorse, and we will complete our task and free the Iraqi people from their history of tyranny and we will destroy terrorist forces here before they can bring the fight to American shores and threaten our families.

On this Veteran's Day we need to reflect on the legacy of our predecessors and remember

those who gave their hearts and their lives to our nation's defense. Many have made that sacrifice here; we will never forget our brethren from this or past wars.

Their loss is a loss to all of us, but their contribution to preserving the lives and liberties of America will be remembered and appreciated by our nation and all of us who fight together in Task Force Ironhorse.

We will continue the fight for our families, for our country, and for each other. God bless the soldiers and families of Task Force Ironhorse and God bless America.



Coalition assists local corner clinic

Story by Spc. Benjamin Kibbey

TIKRIT, Iraq — Sergeant Maj. Wagdi Mabrouk, command sergeant major of 1st Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, led a group of Army doctors and medical specialists out to the Il Sakor Clinic a few hundred meters outside of Camp Speicher, where the battalion is located.

The weekly visits, which usually occur on Tuesdays, attract the attention of the community, and there are usually lines of people waiting to see the Army specialists.

“We started visiting the clinic probably about four weeks ago, the flight surgeon, myself and a couple of other medical folks,” Mabrouk said.

“June, July time frame, we started actually building the clinic,” he continued. “We established the clinic—it used to be an apartment, I believe—built it, and then hired the personnel that will run it. Since then we’ve just been going back and seeing if there’s anything they need, any type of assistance that they need with setting up the file system, or just the medical care process.”

The American doctors provide the Iraqis more specialized care that they might not receive otherwise.

“We conduct a women’s clinic and a pediatric clinic with some of our specialists, and do that for probably about half a day, or as long as it takes us to get through all the patient care, and so far it’s been working out quite well,” Mabrouk said.

Lt. Col. Ann Hochhausen from Cassville, Wis., uses her expertise as a prenatal clinical nurse specialist to the benefit of the local women, many who might not receive any attention during their entire pregnancy.

“I usually see 14 to 20 patients each visit, mostly pregnant women,” Hochhausen said. “Some have a doctor that they see, and some don’t have anybody. I can do an ultrasound, and get a heartbeat and make sure the baby is anatomically correct.”

Most parents want to know the gender of the baby, she said. She said that once, when she told a woman she was having a son, the woman began to cry. Hochhausen learned that the woman had lost her other son in the war against Saddam Hussein’s former regime.

“She sat up and kissed me on the cheek,”

--CLINIC continued on page 4



Photo by Spc. Benjamin Kibbey

Local residents wait patiently at the Il Sakor Clinic outside Tikrit, Iraq for doctors from 1st Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment. The soldiers from Task Force Ironhorse visit the clinic once a week to administer medical care.

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Fellowship group promotes faith over fear

Story by Spc. Samuel A. Soza

FORWARD OPERATING BASE IRONHORSE, TIKRIT, Iraq – ‘Stay alert, stay alive’ is the mantra of many soldiers deployed in Iraq, but when danger is close, alertness can give way to fear.

Soldiers counteract this fear in different ways, but for one group at Forward Operating Base Ironhorse, one source of relief comes from their faith in God.

“Our focus is on different kinds of fear,” said Capt. Robert Y. Mihara of Fremont, Calif. “We talk in terms of dealing with fear.”

Mihara, a personnel officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery, is the leader the Christian Officer Fellowship.

“Fear is integral to terrorism,” said Capt. Ted R. Baccich, a chaplain from New Orleans, La. “It’s one of their chief weapons.”

The fear of death is only one kind of fear. There are many others, fear of authority, for example, that could distract a soldier from focusing on

his or her mission, he said.

“Fear can be defined as believing that what is not wanted is going to happen,” said Baccich. “There is a direct correlation between your belief and how you act. Fear is the opposite of faith.”

Baccich, who has done sermons focusing on fear in the past, is the sponsoring chaplain for the Christian fellowship meetings, though he leaves the meeting topics to Mihara. He said this gives Mihara an opportunity to grow as a leader.

“I do as much as I can to do as little as I can,” Baccich said.

Mihara started the group in September for officers only, modeling it after similar groups he had participated in while serving in Korea and other duty stations.

The group was intended to help officers develop moral leadership, according to Mihara. However, upon the chaplain’s suggestion, the ranks were soon opened to all soldiers.

“I didn’t want it to look elitist or in any way unchristian,” Baccich said.

The move also encouraged more



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

4th Infantry Division soldiers Spc. Christopher R. Krumm, an actions clerk and Spc. Shawn P. Bowes, a member of Division operations, are enlisted members of the newly formed Christian Officer Fellowship, a group devoted to dealing with fear and religious faith.

attendance, which now hovers around seven.

The sessions open with a prayer and move into a reading followed by study through discussion about fear and biblical teachings that can be applied to assail it.

The Christian Officer Fellowship meets Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm in the conference room at Division Main, Taskforce Ironhorse.

Division Surgeon conference spotlights healthcare

Story by Spc. Melissa Walther

FORWARD OPERATING BASE IRONHORSE, TIKRIT, Iraq – Whether it’s fighting a war or building a nation, the most critical need of the military is healthy servicemembers.

The medical conference, hosted by the Division Surgeon and held every two months at Forward Operating Base Ironhorse, is helping medical personnel ensure that troops stay healthy and safe.

“It’s how we exchange information,” said Capt. David Bowen, medical information management officer for, Division Surgeon office, Task Force Ironhorse. “Medical people come from all over the Task Force Ironhorse area.”

During the meeting, everything from preventative medicine, logistics and medical training to how do medical screenings for redeployment are discussed.

The office also holds open forums for medical planners and surgeons, as well as medical technicians.

“That’s where we do the most,” Bowen said. “It’s where a lot of the ideas are coming from. It’s also where we learn if there are any problems out there and what we can do to correct them.”

Sharing information is critical because of

--SURGEON continued on page 5



Division suspends curfew for observers of Ramadan

Story by Staff Sgt. David Bennett

AL BUHESHMA, Iraq – Army units within Task Force Ironhorse have lifted a curfew in most areas of northern Iraqi provinces so that followers can participate in the holy celebration of Ramadan.

Lt. Col. Nate Sassaman, battalion commander for 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment recently met with spiritual and community leaders from the Balad area to discuss the Coalition's intention of suspending the curfew so communities can participate in the month-long ritual without apprehension.

He distributed to the group of imams and sheiks a letter from Maj. Gen. Raymond Odierno, commander of Task Force Ironhorse, outlining his intention to lift the curfew, while reducing the number of patrols in major areas.

Sassaman said the action allows residents to observe

Ramadan freely, with the understanding that any violent activities against Coalition forces wouldn't be tolerated. Bombings and other acts of violence in and around Baghdad have already punctuated the beginning Ramadan, which began Oct. 27.

The battalion commander said his soldiers are studying about Ramadan so they comprehend what the Muslim event entails.

"We have spent the last few weeks trying to educate our soldiers on the customs of Ramadan," said Sassaman.

During Ramadan, which concludes Nov. 26, Muslims fast as part of worship.

One imam told Sassaman that people in the Salah Al Din province, which includes the village of Al Buheshma, are tiring of the unrest that has shadowed the area since the major combat operations ended May 1.



Photo by Staff Sgt. David Bennett

Lt. Col. Nate Sassaman, commander of 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, waits for imams to read a letter outlining the unit's intention to suspend the curfew so area residents can observe the Muslim tradition of Ramadan.

"We like to live peacefully and we like to live happily," he said.

Capt. Eric Paliwoda, commander of B Company, 4th Engineer Battalion, said that military units would restrict patrols to major routes, thus reducing their presence in many areas. He said lifting the curfew is a show of trust that area residents can police their own communities.

"There has been a good amount of progress, but there is still a way to go," Paliwoda said.

--CLINIC continued from page 2

Hochhausen said.

Such poignant moments as the one Hochhausen experienced demonstrate how the presence of the American medical professionals in the local clinic not only helps the Iraqis directly, but also encourages better relations between Americans and Iraqis.

"There are many soldiers who have not socialized at all with any Iraqis," said Mabrouk. "They've been

here for months, and have not done so. And the same thing for the Iraqis, they hear so much about us and I think that probably the most important thing for us to do is maybe just win the Iraqis one person at a time."



Photo by Spc. Benjamin Kibbey

Lt. Col. Ann Hochhausen, Cassville, Wis., assigned to 1st Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, in Tikrit, Iraq, gives her medical prognosis to Sgt. Maj. Wagdi Mabrouk, 1st Battalion command sergeant major, who then translates it into Arabic.



--MP continued from page 1

Contraband that the police keep watch for include automatic rifles, munitions and even black market fuel.

“(We search for) anything that could be used against coalition forces,” said the battalion’s Command Sgt. Maj. William A. Generali, a native of Providence, R.I.

The increase in concern about larger trucks derives from recent roadside discoveries, such as one that revealed a large cache of munitions hidden under a layer of hay piled in the back of a truck.

Large capacity vehicles, even those carrying cattle or sheep, could contain



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

Staff Sgt. John N. Davis, a Victoria, Texas native and a squad leader with the 411th Military Police Company, searches a truck for contraband at a checkpoint operated by the U.S. military and Tikrit police.

contraband that is distributed to insurgents attacking U.S. forces, said Lt. Col. David J. Poirier, commander of the 720th.

“Our goal out here is to let those people know that they won’t get a free pass on this highway,” said Poirier, a Massena, N.Y.-native.

As the work progresses, the soldiers eventually take a backseat, leaving the checkpoint under the Iraqis’ direction.

This collaboration is the one of the steps in a transferring responsibility to the local police. Once the Iraqi police have the training, they will man the sites and monitor the highways for weapons and munitions being shipped around Iraq with as little oversight from Coalition forces as possible.

“We’re trying to teach them to take control,” Generali said.

According to Generali, the Iraqi police have been training on modern law enforcement tactics taught by the 720th.

The commander said joint training such as the checkpoints in Task Force Ironhorse’s area of operation would continue so the Iraqi police can continue to improve.

“If we get a new group, we work until they’re up to standard,” Poirier said.

Companies of the 720th have operated in Fallujah as Task Force Gauntlet and have supported the 3rd Infantry Division, 101st Airborne Division, and now Task Force Ironhorse.

--SURGEON continued from page 3
the wide area Task Force Ironhorse encompasses.

“If you start to think about what the 101st is doing, what 1st (Armored Division) is doing and compare it to what 4 ID is doing, we’re pretty spread out,” said Lt. Col. Kirk Eggleston, Task Force Ironhorse Division Surgeon.

“The 101st basically has Mosul. 1 AD has Baghdad. We’ve got the rest of the north.”

“The rest of the north” is a 12,000-square kilometer area with more than 40 forward operating bases and 27,000 soldiers that need medical care. Sometimes resources are stretched.

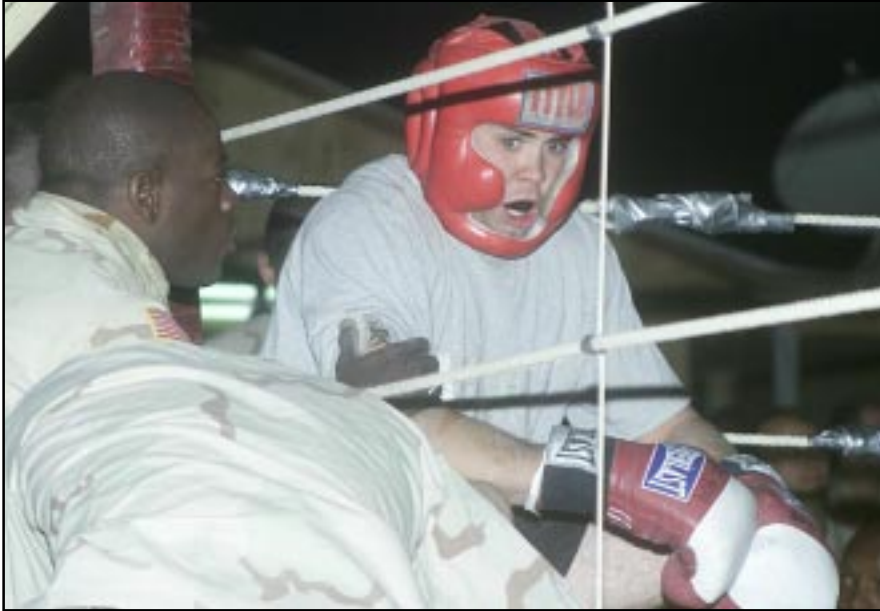
“That’s where the problem comes in,” Eggleston said. “It’s hard to support medically.”

According to Bowen, one of the primary goals of the conference is to hash out difficulties so healthcare is administered as efficiently and expertly as possible.



Fight Night

Soldiers battle for supremacy



(left) Spc. Thomas Twombly, 1058th Transportation Battalion, gets a pep talk at Fight Night, Oct. 31, 2003.

(center) Spc. Thomas Twombly, 1058th Transportation Battalion, moves on his opponent at Fight Night at Camp Speicher.

(bottom) Spc. Brian Richards, in blue, 2-63 Maintenance Co., faces off against Spc. Antone Dillard, in red, representing Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment.

Story by Spc. Benjamin Kibbey
CAMP SPEICHER, Iraq – When the members of 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, aren't doing their part to fight to reconstruct post-Saddam Iraq, they fight each other once a week.

Every Friday night at A Company, 404th Aviation Support Battalion, a few hours after the sun sets at Camp Speicher, the crowds gather, thirsty for the spectacle, as warriors prepare to meet in single combat.

The moments move as fast as the fists, as the two, gloved opponents explore the small ring and each other's weaknesses, and in only three one-minute rounds, the boxing match is decided.

The boxing ring is well made, even though it is the recycled remains of everything from worn tires underneath to cargo straps at each of the four corners.

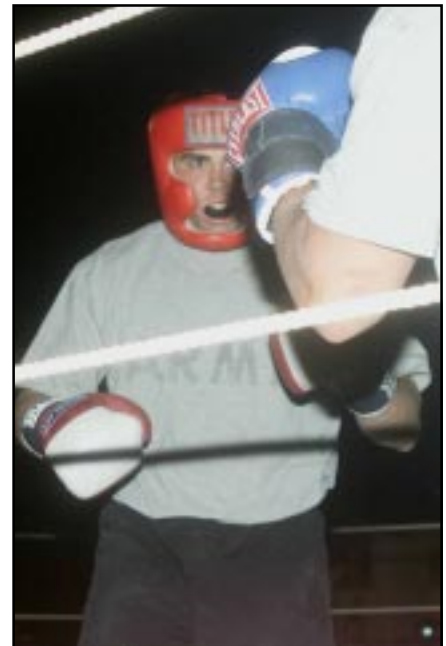
The gears start turning on Thurs-

day, when soldiers from every corner of Camp Speicher come to the company for the weigh-in.

Before each match, flatbed trailers are brought around to three sides of the ring to provide riser seating for the crowds that now number in the hundreds.

With the crowd from all over the camp cheering, jeering, and focusing every ounce of their energy on the two warriors locked in combat, it's possible to forget for a moment that the ring is in Iraq. Maybe that's the reason so many come to watch each week.

Of course, it may be that the spectators simply enjoy the sport of physical combat.



Local News

Religious Services at FOB Ironhorse

Sunday:

0930 -- Protestant

1100 -- Gospel

1200 -- LDS

1300 -- Catholic

Wednesday:

1830 -- Prayer and Praise

1900 -- Bible Study

Friday:

1225 -- Muslim

1930 -- Jewish

Praise and worship

A praise and worship service will be held every Sunday at 1800 in the Band Rehearsal hall located at Division Main.

For more information, contact your chaplain.

Turkey Trot

5k Road Race will be held 0900 Nov. 27.

Sign up every Wed. and Sat, 1130-1330 at the DFAC starting Oct. 15. Deadline is Nov. 26.

Free T-shirts for the first 350 entrants.

For more information, contact Capt. Fortner at 534-7511 or 1st Lt. Noll at 530-6469.

Sponsored by 124th Signal Battalion and 1st Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment.

Weather Forecast

Monday: High: 86 F
Low: 66 F
Winds: SW 18 MPH
Mostly Cloudy, T-Storms, Rain

Tuesday: High: 85 F
Low: 56 F
Winds: SW 12 MPH
Partly Cloudy

Wednesday: High: 85 F
Low: 54 F
Winds: NW 10 MPH
Mostly Sunny

Thursday: High: 83 F
Low: 52 F
Winds: N 8 MPH
Partly Cloudy

Friday: High: 80 F
Low: 50 F
Winds: NW 10 MPH
Mostly Cloudy

Reunion/Suicide Prevention Briefs

Briefs will now be held once a week, Wednesday at 1000 in the Chapel/Movie Theater at the Soldiers Inn.

Briefs must be given before a soldier goes on mid-term leave.

Emergency individual briefings can be arranged through the chaplain's office.

Sports Bar Happenings

Monday: Country and Western

Tuesday: Football

Wednesday: Oldies but Goodies

Thursday: Variety Night

Friday: R&B

Saturday: Latin Night

Sunday: Live Football

Open Sun. - Thurs.: 2000 - 2400

Fri. - Sat.: 2000 - 0100

Christmas Mail

To ensure your letters and packages get to the States before Christmas, send them no later than:

6 Nov. Parcel Post

13 Nov. SAM Parcels

26 Nov. Parcel Airlift Mail

4 Dec. First Class Letters/
Cards/Priority

If you receive insured packages that are damaged, keep all the packing material, wrappers, insurance endorsement or label and addresses.

Movie Schedule

Movies at the Task Force Ironhorse Soldier's Inn are shown at 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Movies listed below are for the 8:00 p.m. showing only.

10 Nov.: Resident Evil

11 Nov.: 2 Fast 2 Furious

12 Nov.: The 6th Day

13 Nov.: Head of State

14 Nov.: Old School

15 Nov.: Pirates of the
Caribbean

16 Nov.: Burce Almighty

Sunday's movies are shown at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. only.



World News

DENVER - NASA and a Boulder company are joining forces in a \$2.8 million program to fly small, unmanned planes into hurricanes, erupting volcanoes and other remote or inaccessible research targets.

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP) - A cluster of 1,100 Macintosh PCs stacked like library books in a squat cement building at the outskirts of Virginia Tech's campus - arranged by students in exchange for football tickets and pizza - is about to rank as the world's third-fastest supercomputer, at 10.3 trillion operations per second.

WACO — The scheduled opening of Baylor University's new science building remains on track for next year despite a blaze that damaged the roof of the \$103 million structure, officials say.

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Scrambling to keep up with surprisingly strong economic news, private forecasters have boosted projections of U.S. economic growth, a closely watched newsletter said on Monday. Blue Chip Economic Indicators said its poll of over 50 professional forecasters found the consensus view for 2004 growth had risen to 4.2 percent from the 3.9 percent expected only a month ago.

HOUSTON — Texas has topped federal health officials' list as the flu leader this season, with the virus spreading to neighboring states.

FORT WORTH — A former shipping clerk pleaded guilty in federal court today to shipping himself from New York to Dallas in a wooden cargo crate.

Sports

NFL Standings

American Football Conference

East

New England (7-2)
Miami (5-4)
Buffalo (4-5)
NY Jets (3-6)

North

Baltimore (5-4)
Cincinnati (4-5)
Cleveland (3-6)
Pittsburgh (3-6)

South

Indianapolis (7-2)
Tennessee (7-2)
Houston (3-6)
Jacksonville (2-7)

West

Kansas City (9-0)
Denver (5-4)
Oakland (2-7)
San Diego (2-7)

National Football Conference

East

Dallas (7-2)
Philadelphia (5-3)
NY Giants (4-5)
Washington (4-5)

North

Minnesota (6-3)
Green Bay (4-4)
Chicago (3-6)
Detroit (3-6)

South

Carolina (7-2)
New Orleans (4-5)
Tampa Bay (4-5)
Atlanta (2-7)

West

Seattle (6-3)
St. Louis (6-3)
San Francisco (4-5)
Arizona (3-6)

NFL Sunday's Games:

Washington 27, Seattle 20
Atlanta 27, NY Giants 7
Carolina 27, Tampa Bay 24
Pittsburgh 28, Arizona 15
Cincinnati 34, Houston 27
Tennessee 31, Miami 7
Kansas City 41, Cleveland 20
Jacksonville 28, Indianapolis 23
Detroit 12, Chicago 10
San Diego 42, Minnesota 28
Dallas 10, Buffalo 6
NY Jets 27, Oakland 24
St. Louis 33, Baltimore 22

NCAA Football

(1) Oklahoma 77, Texas A&M 0
(13) TCU 31, Louisville 28
(7) Ohio St. 33, (14) Michigan St. 23
(18) Tennessee 10, (6) Miami (FL) 6
(24) Minnesota 37, Wisconsin 34
(23) Northern Illinois 40, Buffalo (9)
(17) Florida 35, Vanderbilt 17
Colorado 21, (22) Missouri 16
(19) Nebraska 24, Kansas 3
(16) Purdue 27, (10) Iowa, 14
(20) Mississippi 24, Auburn 20
(11) Texas 55, (21) Oklahoma St. 16
(12) Washington St. 31, UCLA 13
Clemson 26, (3) Florida St. 10
(25) Pittsburgh 31, (5) VA Tech. 28

National Hockey League

Eastern Conference Standings

(Team, W-L-T, Pt.)

Atlantic

Philadelphia (7-2-3, 18)
New Jersey (7-3-3, 17)
NY Islanders (7-4-2, 16)
NY Rangers (5-4-2, 14)
Pittsburgh (3-7-3, 9)

Northeast

Boston (7-2-3, 19)
Toronto (7-4-3, 18)
Buffalo (7-7-1, 15)

Montreal (7-8-0, 14)
Ottawa (5-4-2, 13)
Southeast
Tampa Bay (8-1-1, 18)
Atlanta (7-4-3, 18)
Florida (5-8-2, 12)
Carolina (4-5-4, 12)
Washington (3-10-1, 7)

Western Conference

Central

St. Louis (9-3-0, 19)
Chicago (6-5-3, 15)
Detroit (6-7-1, 13)
Nashville (5-8-1, 14)
Columbus (4-7-0, 9)

Northwest

Vancouver (10-3-2, 22)
Colorado (7-5-1, 15)
Minnesota (6-7-2, 14)
Edmonton (5-6-2, 12)
Calgary (5-6-0, 11)

Pacific

Los Angeles (7-5-0, 15)
Dallas (7-7-1, 15)
San Jose (3-5-6, 13)
Anaheim (4-7-1, 12)
Phoenix (4-6-3, 11)

NHL Scores

Sunday

Calgary 3, Columbus 4
Tampa Bay 1, Carolina 1 (OT)
Colorado 4, Chicago 3 (OT)
Phoenix 1, Anaheim 2 (OT)

NBA Standings

Eastern Conference

Atlantic

Philadelphia (3-3)
Washington (3-3)
New Jersey (3-3)
Boston (3-3)
New York (2-4)
Orlando (1-6)
Miami (0-6)

Central

Indiana (5-1)
Detroit (4-1)
New Orleans (5-2)
Toronto (3-2)
Milwaukee (4-3)
Chicago (3-4)
Atlanta (1-5)
Cleveland (1-5)

Western Conference

Midwest

Houston (4-1)
Utah (4-2)
Dallas (4-3)
Minnesota (4-3)
Denver (3-3)
San Antonio (3-4)
Memphis (2-4)

Pacific

Seattle (3-0)
LA Lakers (5-1)
Golden State (3-2)
Sacramento (3-2)
Portland (3-3)
Phoenix (2-3)
LA Clippers (1-2)

NBA Scores

Sunday

Toronto 89, Denver 76
Indiana 85, Philadelphia 74
Detroit 98, New Jersey 84
Boston 91, Sacramento 82
Atlanta 91, Seattle 81

Other News

NBA

Boston's first win over Sacramento in nearly four years was a team effort, accomplished largely without its brightest star. Vin Baker (18 points, 13 rebounds), Eric Williams and Mark Blount made key contributions and the Kings did not score for the first three-plus minutes of the fourth quarter while Celtics star Paul Pierce rested on the bench.

